

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

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The paragraph at lines 7-12 has been amended as follows:

13
This invention relates to methods for speech coding and decoding and apparatuses for speech coding and decoding for performing compression coding and decoding of a speech signal to a digital signal. Particularly, this invention relates to a method for speech coding, method for speech decoding, apparatus for speech ~~coding and~~ coding, and apparatus for speech decoding for reproducing a high quality speech at low bit rates.

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The paragraphs at lines 15-24 have been amended as follows:

13
Fig. 1 shows a block diagram of a whole configuration of a speech coding and speech decoding apparatus in embodiment 1 of this ~~invention.~~ invention;

Fig. 2 shows a table for explaining an evaluation of a noise level in embodiment 1 of this invention illustrated in ~~Fig. 1.~~ Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 shows a block diagram of a whole configuration of a speech coding and speech decoding apparatus in embodiment 3 of this ~~invention.~~ invention;

Fig. 4 shows a block diagram of a whole configuration of a speech coding and speech decoding apparatus in embodiment 5 of this ~~invention~~invention;

Fig. 5 shows a schematic line chart for explaining a decision process of weighting in embodiment 5 illustrated in ~~Fig. 4~~Fig. 4;

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The paragraphs beginning on page 10, line 25 and ending on page 11, line 3 have been amended as follows:

Fig. 6 shows a block diagram of a whole configuration of a CELP speech coding and decoding apparatus according to the related ~~art~~art;

Fig. 7 shows a block diagram of a whole configuration of an improved CELP speech coding and decoding apparatus according to the related art; and

Fig. 8 shows a block diagram of a whole configuration of a speech coding and decoding apparatus according to embodiment 8 of the invention.
